



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8143

April 29, 2011

Senator Olympia Snowe
Senate Russell Office Building, Rm. 154
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, is writing to express our strong support for your bill, S.815, the Sanctity of Eternal Rest for Veterans (SERVE) Act.

Members of TMC organizations have fought in our nation's wars to protect the right of free speech of all citizens under the First Amendment. With free speech comes the responsibility to uphold other protections in the Bill of Rights. In this context, we believe the nation must do more to honor the right of privacy of families and loved ones of our military members killed in defense of our freedoms. S.815 would protect the dignity of these mourners, while preserving the free speech of demonstrators at military funerals.

The SERVE Act would:

- Increase period of time when no demonstrations are allowed before and after funeral services from 60 minutes to 120 minutes.
- Extend from 150 to 300 feet the distance from funeral-goers within which protests are prohibited at private cemeteries, and from 300 ft. to 500 feet at National Cemeteries or Arlington National Cemetery
- Impose certain penalties on violators
- Allow immediate family members and the United States Attorney General each to sue violators for monetary damages

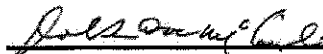
The Military Coalition is grateful for your leadership in introducing S.815 and we pledge our full support towards its early enactment.


Sincerely,

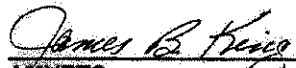
The Military Coalition

(Signatures enclosed)


Air Force Association


Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)


Air Force Women Officers
Associated


AMVETS


Army Aviation Assn. of America


Assn. of Military Surgeons
of the United States


Assn. of the US Army


Association of the United States Navy


Commissioned Officers Assn. of
the US Public Health Service, Inc

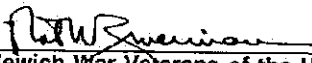

CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard


Enlisted Association of the
National Guard of the US


Fleet Reserve Assn.


Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

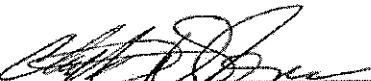

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Marine Corps League


Marine Corps Reserve Association


Military Officers Assn. of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for
Uniformed Services


National Guard Assn. of the US

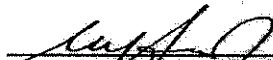

National Military Family Assn.


Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.


Non Commissioned Officers Assn.
of the United States of America


Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US


Reserve Officers Assn


Society of Medical Consultants
to the Armed Forces


The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA


The Retired Enlisted Assn.


USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.


U.S. Army Warrant Officers Assn.


Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US


Vietnam Veterans of America